

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0214

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJECT: JOINT US-ECUADOR NARCOTICS MEETING, JAN UARY 7, 1975

CARACAS FOR DEA

REF: QUITO 8330

1. MONTHLY NARCOTICS MEETING WAS CONVENED JNAUARY 7, 1975, BY COORDINATOR OF MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT, COLONEL GUSTAVO VACA. USUAL PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED FROM EACH SIDE WITH EXCEPTION OF REPRESENTATION FROM GOE CUSTOMS POLICE.

2. GROUP COMPLETED REVIEW OF 1974 POLICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT OBJECTIVES AND AGREED THAT REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH SIDE WOULD NOW MEET TO SKETCH OUT DRAFT AGREEMENT FOR 1975. WE ALSO PROVIDED GOE WITH DETAILED WRITTEN ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF PRO AG OBJECTIVES. COPIES WILL BE POUCHED TO ARA AND S/NM.

3. IN DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED PRESENTATION OF OUR WRITTEN DOCUMENT, WE EMPHASIZED FOUR POINTS WHICH WE BELIEVE NEEDED ATTENTION IF WE WERE TO MOVE TO THE FULL REALIZATION OF OUR MUTUALLY AGREED GOALS. FIRST, THE
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GOE MUST ASSIGN A FULL COMPLEMENT OF OFFICERS TO THE

NARCOTICS SERVICE. SECOND, AN INTELLIGENCE UNIT MUST BE FORMED. THIRD, THE GOE OPERATING FUND, WHICH IS USED FOR PER DIEM AND OTHER EXPENSES RELATED TO FIELD INVESTIGATIONS, MUST BE PUT TO BETTER USE. AND FINALLY, TO AVOID PROBLEMS OF CORRUPTION, THERE IS A NEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT INSPECTION SYSTEM.

4. COL. VACA AND NARCOTICS CHIEF, COL. NUNEZ, WERE OBVIOUSLY WELL PREPARED FOR SESSION. IN REPLY TO THE FOREGOING POINTS, VACA ANSWERED THAT THE NEW "ORGANICO" FOR THE NATIONAL POLICE HAD FINALLY BEEN APPROVED IN THE PRESIDENCY AND BARRING ANY UNFORESEEN BUDGET DIFFICULTIES, THE NARCOTICS UNIT WOULD SOON HAVE A FULL COMPLEMENT OF PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED OFFICERS. THIS WOULD ALSO MEAN THAT THE INTELLIGENCE UNIT, WHICH IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE "ORGANICO", WOULD FINALLY BE STAFFED. VACA SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW "ORGANICO" CREATED THE PROSPECT OF DRAMATIC IMPROVEMENT IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IN THE YEAR AHEAD. AS FOR THE OPERATING FUND, COL. NUNEZ EXPLAINED THAT WITH THE NEW "ORGANICO" AND THUS THE PROSPECT OF PERMANENT FULL-TIME NARCOTICS OFFICERS IN THE PROVINCES, IT WOULD ALSO BE EASIER TO MAKE RAPID AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE OPERATING FUND COUNTRYWIDE.

5. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING THE PROGRAM AGREEMENT, THE GROUP AGREED THAT AT THE NEXT MEETING THE CHIEF OF THE GOE MILITARY CUSTOMS POLICE WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND AND THAT WE WOULD DISCUSS THE DRAFTING OF A REGULATION GOVERNING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NATIONAL POLICE AND CUSTOMS.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE NEW POLICE "ORGANICO" HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLISHED, NEWS THAT IT HAS FINALLY BEEN APPROVED IN THE PRESIDENCY IS INDEED WELCOME. WE BELIEVE THAT EVEN WITH AN IMPERFECTLY STAFFED ORGANIZATION, THE ECUADOREAN POLICE SUCCEEDED IN 1974 IN ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN ITS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT WORK. THESE ARE EVIDENCED BY INCREASED SEIZURES AND ARRESTS, A PRESENT SHORTAGE OF COCAINE IN THE LOCAL MARKETS AND

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THE FACT THAT VERY FEW ECUADOREAN TRAFFICKERS WERE ARRESTED IN THE STATES LAST YEAR AS COMPARED TO COLOMBIANS AND MEXICANS. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO TAKE CONSOLATION FROM THE FACT THAT THE MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS WHOM THE ECUADOREANS HAVE ARRESTED IN THE PAST YEAR OR SO REMAIN UNDER DETENTION. FINALLY, IT APPEARS TO US THAT OUR MONTHLY LIAISON MEETINGS ARE GAINING MOMENTUM AND THE EUCADOREAN OFFICIALS

CONCERNED SEEM TO BE SHOWING AN INCREASINGLY POSITIVE
ATTITUDE TOWARDS COLLABORATING WITH US.
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